

**Outstanding dues against cellular companies**

33. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the amounts due to the MTNL from the cellular companies; and

(b) the name of each operator and the amount due?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Nil

(b) Not applicable in view of reply to (a) above.

**Withdrawal of strike by Postal Workers**

34. SHRI GAYA SINGH:

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the assurances given to the Trade Unions representing Postal Workers who were on strike for 14 days until 18th December, 2000 to persuade them to withdraw the strike; and

(b) whether such assurances have been honoured and if so, what steps have been taken so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) In this connection it is to intimate that large number of postal employees all over the country remained on strike from 5-12-2000 to 18.12.2000. Several rounds of negotiations were held with the representatives of postal federations and their affiliated unions at the level of MoC, Secretary (P) and the Members of the Postal Services Board, where the issues pertaining to their demands and the rationale underlying Government's views in this regard were duly explained. During these negotiations it was clarified that the reasonable demands of the employees having implications only within the Department of Posts can be resolved. The Hon'ble MoC in his written appeal dated 17.12.2000 to the striking postal